

West Chester University Digital Commons @ West Chester University

Educational Development

School of Interdisciplinary & Graduate Studies

10-2016

The Star and the Stripes: A History of the Foreign Policies of American Jews by Michael N. Barnett (review)

Ann Lieberman Colgan

West Chester University of Pennsylvania, acolgan@wcupa.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/eddev_facpub



Part of the [Jewish Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Colgan, A. L. (2016). The Star and the Stripes: A History of the Foreign Policies of American Jews by Michael N. Barnett (review). *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, 54(2) Retrieved from http://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/eddev_facpub/4

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Interdisciplinary & Graduate Studies at Digital Commons @ West Chester University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Educational Development by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ West Chester University. For more information, please contact wccressler@wcupa.edu.

CHOICE

connect

A publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries
A division of the American Library Association
Editorial Offices: 575 Main Street, Suite 300, Middletown, CT 06457-3445
Phone: (860) 347-6933
Fax: (860) 704-0465
October 2016 Vol. 54 No. 2

Princeton University Press

The following review appeared in the October 2016 issue of CHOICE:

North America

54-0835

E184

2015-31272 CIP

Barnett, Michael N. **The star and the stripes: a history of the foreign policies of American Jews.** Princeton, 2016. 348p bibl index afp ISBN 9780691165974, \$35.00; ISBN 9781400880607 ebook, contact publisher for price.

Barnett's densely supported history of the foreign policy beliefs of Jews in the US begins with a chapter explaining the critical influences of prophetic/cosmopolitan Jewish thought versus tribal/particular thought about the "Jewish problem" and the "Jewish question." Chapters 2–6 track the historical ebb and flow of the inclusive version of Jewish thought that Barnett (international affairs and political science, George Washington Univ.) ties extensively to US Jews' foreign policy, which mirrored the expanding democratic civil liberalism of the US and other Western nations. The author asserts that the uncertain position of transnational peoples, such as Jews, makes them more likely to support liberal positions to secure their safety and access opportunities. The most interesting section deals with US Jews' differing attitudes toward Zionism and Israel. Barnett's last chapter deals with factors impacting modern US Jewish foreign policy and sometimes includes disturbingly sweeping generalizations: "American Jews want a Jewish identity heavily laced with prophetic tradition. ... Israeli Jews tend toward tribalism. American Jews would like to make the world a better place; Israeli Jews are too consumed with building and defending an ethnonational state to worry about much else." Overall, this text supplies much-needed coherence to the topic.

--A. Lieberman Colgan, *West Chester University of Pennsylvania*

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Most levels/libraries.